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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1940.

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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillors D. Hesford (Chairman).  
J. Adams.  
E. Brew.  
A. Briggs.  
J. G. Enticott, J.P.  
J. H. Jones.  
A.J. Keal, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).  
J. McLean, C.C.  
W.H.J. Marshall.  
F.J. Melville, J.P.  
E. Owen.  
R. Sutton.

OFFICIALS and STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical  
Superintendent Child Welfare  
Clinic ..... JOSEPH W. ROBERTS, L.S.A., Lond.  
  
Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing  
Superintendent ..... L.F. ATHERTON, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.  
  
Clerk and Assistant ..... C. R. PALING.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate .....	92	97	189
Illegitimate .....	3	4	7
Stillbirths .....	5	5	10
Birth rate .....			13.9
Deaths .....	73	63	136
Death rate .....			9.6
Deaths from Puerperal causes ...			nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.			30
Deaths from Measles .....			nil
Deaths from Diphtheria .....			nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....			nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough .....			nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..			17

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

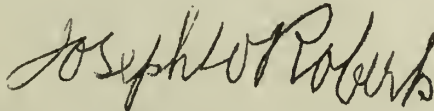
I beg to present my annual report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December 1940.

The birthrate (13.9) showed a slight increase over the figure for the previous year.

The infantile mortality rate decreased from 87 in 1939 to 30; the lowest recorded during the past ten years.

The general statistical summary including tables of local populations has been omitted for reasons of national security, and in the interests of economy the report has again been materially shortened.

Yours obediently,



Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

The county district of Irlam is roughly square in shape, with sides over three and a half miles long.

A considerable area of the great Chat Moss comes within the district boundaries and, being unfit for building purposes, is almost all under cultivation. This provides a relieving contrast to the remainder of the area which is intensely industrial in character.

Employment in the district is good, and no conditions have been noted of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 196, giving a birthrate of 13.9 against 13.4 for the previous year.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 103, deducting 5 deaths of persons not usually resident in this district and adding 38 deaths of residents which occurred in other districts, the corrected number was 136.

This gave a deathrate of 9.6 per 1,000 of population compared with 10.1 in 1939.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 6 deaths of children under one year of age, giving a deathrate of 30 per 1,000 live births, compared with 87 for the previous year.

CANCER.

There were 17 deaths from cancer, giving a rate of 1.20 per 1,000 of the population.

ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.

31 deaths, giving a deathrate of 2.2 per 1,000 of the population.

RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

25 deaths (bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases), giving a deathrate of 1.7 per 1,000, compared with 12 deaths giving a deathrate of 0.83 for 1939.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The table below gives the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases. In 1940 the district was visited by a sharp epidemic of measles, 341 cases being notified between May and August. The epidemic declined towards the end of the year.

Diphtheria antitoxin is available to all medical practitioners at the Public Health Office. 92 8,000 unit phials were distributed during the year.

No action has yet been taken to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria.

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
(other than tuberculosis).

Disease	Number notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	38	2	-
Diphtheria	17	8	-
Enteric Fever	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	6	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	40	-	10
Puerperal pyrexia	2	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	6	6	1
Erysipelas	8	-	-
Measles	404	1	-
TOTALS	523	19	11

Disinfection was carried out by spraying infected rooms with formalin solution and fumigating with vapour. Disinfectants are supplied free.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a statement of the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from this district during the year. The examinations of sputum for tuberculosis are carried out at the laboratory of the district consultant tuberculosis officer. Other specimens are forwarded to the public health laboratory of the Manchester University.

Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Tuberculosis	
Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive
42	11	9	-	32	12



TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease are given in the following table:

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- .....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
1- .....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5- .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10- .....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15- .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20- .....	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25- .....	2	4	1	2	-	1	-	-
35- .....	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45- .....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55- .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	8	6	3	3	3	2	-	1

The notification of tuberculosis was satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take any action regarding cases of neglect or refusal to notify. All deaths from tuberculosis were previously notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox. The scheme submitted to the Minister of Health by the Lancashire County Council under section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of adequate hospital accommodation in connection with the treatment of infectious diseases in the county, provides that for infectious disease other than smallpox, Irlam should be grouped with the Boroughs of Stretford and Eccles, and the Urban Districts of Farnworth and Urmston; these authorities constituting Area XXV of the county scheme. The minimum number of beds to be provided for the area is 110, and the Urban District Council is responsible for the reservation of 10 of this number.

The Minister's approval to the County Scheme was received in February 1938, and in May 1938, an agreement was completed between the Salford Corporation and the authorities concerned for the treatment of patients at the Ladywell Sanatorium.

(b) Smallpox. For the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the treatment of Smallpox, the County Scheme includes Irlam in Area XIV along with the Borough of Eccles, and six beds are required to be reserved for the two authorities.

(b) Smallpox contd.

Several joint meetings have been held between the representative of Eccles and Irlam and, at the end of the year, negotiations are in progress for the reservation of six beds at Salford Corporation's smallpox hospital, Drinkwater Park.

Pending satisfactory completion of the new scheme the Urban Council remains a party to a special agreement with Manchester Corporation for the treatment of smallpox cases at Clayton Hospital.

(c) General. For general purposes the hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Flixton were utilised.

The Public Assistance hospitals for the area are at Patricroft and Flixton.

There is no institutional provision in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children.

No day nurseries, tuberculosis dispensaries or clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases are provided in the district.

The Council makes annual contributions to the Manchester and Salford medical charities and the Eccles hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases are removed in the motor ambulances provided by the Salford Corporation.

(b) A motor ambulance is provided and maintained by the Council, and is available day and night, for the removal of cases of accident or sudden illness, and by arrangements for cases requiring hospital or surgical treatment. The service was adequate. Statistics of information as to the use and cost of the Council's service given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

MORTUARY.

Nine bodies were brought into the mortuary during the year, (residents 5, non-residents 4).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Through the local District Nursing Association the services of two nurses are available for general nursing. The Association is entirely voluntary.

There is no employment of (or subsidy to) practising midwives in the district by the Council. The Midwives Act is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There were five midwives practising in the district.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

This work is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There are two clinics in the district, and sessions were held once a week throughout the year on Wednesdays. Good attendances were maintained.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

One maternal death was notified during the year.

Enquiries respecting maternal deaths in this district are made by the County Medical Officer of Health.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the district are visited at regular intervals by the County Council inspecting staff, and, in addition, your officials make periodical inspections with regard to sanitary arrangements generally.

CAUSES OF DEATH for the year 1940. Classified  
under the headings of the Abridged List of Causes.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	3	2	5
Other Tuberculosis .....	-	1	1
Cancer .....	9	8	17
Intra. cron. vasc. lesions .....	3	10	13
Heart Disease .....	17	14	31
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	7	3	10
Bronchitis .....	11	3	14
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	3	1	4
Other maternal causes .....	-	1	1
Premature birth .....	1	1	2
Influenza .....	7	2	9
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	-	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	2	2	4
Road traffic accidents .....	2	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases .....	-	3	3
Congenital Debility, Prematurity, etc....	1	1	2
Suicide .....	1	-	1
Violence .....	-	3	3
Other Defined Diseases .....	4	5	9
Totals .....	73	63	136



INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during 1940, other than Tuberculosis.

Disease	Total Cases	At Ages - Years											Cases Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65 & over
Scarlet Fever...	38	-	1	-	1	3	13	10	4	4	2	-	-	2	-
Diphtheria.....	17	-	-	-	1	-	10	1	3	1	1	-	-	8	-
Enteric Fever...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Measles.....	404	14	36	45	45	78	161	11	9	2	-	2	1	1	-
Whooping Cough.	6	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia...	40	-	1	-	1	3	2	-	1	7	5	15	5	-	10
Puerperal .....															
Pyrexia.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	1	-	6	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.															
Erysipelas ....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals .....	523	15	39	47	50	84	186	24	19	17	11	23	8	19	11

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the year 1940.

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and circumstances of the district for the year ended 31st December 1940.

Refuse collection and salvage operations figured prominently in the year's work, and good results were secured in spite of our difficulties.

Considerable time was devoted to the supervision of food supplies. Details of food surrendered as unfit for consumption are given in the report.

Housing progress was slow and, apart from essential repairs, very little work was carried out owing to the general shortage of labour and materials.

In the interests of economy the report for 1940 has been considerably reduced, only necessary records having been included.

Yours obediently,

*L. J. Amerington*

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. Nine properties in the outlying parts of the district receive water supplies from the county borough of Warrington. The remainder of the district is served by the mains of the Manchester Corporation. Supplies were constant and of good quality.

Rivers and Streams. Frequent inspections were made of rivers and streams.

One complaint concerning the flooding of agricultural land was dealt with by the County land drainage engineer, this department rendering assistance whenever possible.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from a small number of isolated houses, all properties are connected to the sewers.

Sewers and drains are regularly flushed.

The activated sludge system is the method employed at the Council's sewage works, and a satisfactory effluent has been maintained.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The following approximate particulars are given of the sanitary accommodation in the district at the end of 1940:

Fresh-water closets .....	4825
Waste-water closets .....	21
Privy-middens .....	20
Pail-closets .....	82

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action during 1940.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The standards required by the byelaws adopted by the Council for regulating the trade of fish-fryer have been generally complied with. All premises were visited regularly.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

During the year, the following visits were made:

<u>Nature of Inspections.</u>	<u>Visits.</u>
General sanitary work (Public Health and Housing Acts) .....	326
Housing Inspections (Consolidated Regulations) .....	14
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops .....	36
Foodshops and premises .....	135
Factories and other premises .....	51
Public cleansing service .....	171
Re infectious diseases .....	70
Re Shops Act 1934 .....	72
Miscellaneous .....	62

COMPLAINTS.

70 complaints were received during the year, details of which are as follows:

<u>Nature of Complaint.</u>	<u>Number received.</u>
Housing defects .....	14
Choked or defective drains .....	16
Accumulation of refuse, etc.....	6
Vermineous houses .....	4
Nuisances from smoke and fumes .....	4
General insanitary conditions .....	11
Miscellaneous .....	15
	<hr/>
	70
	<hr/>

All complaints were investigated and the necessary action taken.

HOUSING.Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) .....   | 10  |
| (1) By the Local Authority .....  | -   |
| (2) By other Local Authorities .....  | -   |
| (3) By other Bodies or persons .....  | 10  |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:   |     |
| (1) By the Local Authority (included under (a) (1) above) .....   | -   |
| (2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (3) above) .....   | -   |
| 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:   |     |
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....   | 220 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations .....                  | 14  |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....                                    | -   |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... | 71  |
| 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:   |     |
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....                                     | 40  |
| 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:   |     |
| A. Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.   |     |
| No action necessary.  |     |
| B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:  |     |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....  | 10  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.   |     |
| By owners .....   | 14  |



3 contd.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

No demolition orders were made during 1940.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:

One case of overcrowding was relieved during the year.

NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

64 preliminary, and 14 statutory notices were served during the year. The following statement gives details of the work carried out under the supervision of the Department:

Cutters and downspouts repaired .....	5
Ceilings and walls re-plastered .....	14
Leaking roofs repaired .....	6
New sinks provided .....	2
Defective floors reconstructed .....	3
Dangerous fireplaces rebuilt .....	10
Yard surfaces reconstructed .....	7
Yard walls repaired .....	7
Choked drains cleansed .....	16
Drains repaired or reconstructed .....	1
New dustbins provided .....	30
Accumulations removed .....	6
Defective wastepipes repaired .....	3
Dirty houses cleansed .....	6
Defective W.C.s replaced .....	3
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired .....	2
New wash-basins provided .....	1
Miscellaneous .....	9

Eradication of Rat Bugs. 2 Council houses and 4 private owned properties were treated with hydrocyanic acid gas; the work being done by a contractor. The Council does not undertake disinfection work.

Frequent visits of inspection were made by the sanitary inspector and housing estates manager in connection with the supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation of Council properties.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

During the year 10 samples of milk were examined for tubercle bacilli. One sample was found to be positive and appropriate action was taken by the County veterinary staff.

There were four cowkeepers with registered premises in the district and these were found to be generally satisfactory. Other registered dairy premises were well-maintained.

GRADED MILKS.

The following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938:

To retail "Accredited" milk ..... 2  
 To retail "Pasteurised" milk ..... 1

One dairyman was granted a licence to pasteurise milk. Frequent inspections of the pasteurising plant were made during the year.

MEAT.

There are no registered or licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Butchers obtain their supplies from Eccles and Manchester. Frequent visits were made to the shops.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Vehicles for the conveyance of food and places where food is prepared were regularly inspected, and on no occasion was statutory action found to be necessary.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following is a list of foods surrendered, during the year, as unfit for human consumption:

	<u>lbs.</u>
14 hindquarters frozen beef .....	2,100
7 frozen sheep carcasses .....	247
Pig livers (frozen) .....	63
Pig kidneys (frozen) .....	62
Pork .....	30
Boiled ham .....	58
Bacon .....	18
Butter .....	28

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

72 inspections were made of shops and the provisions of the Act respecting heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation were found to be reasonably complied with.

PUBLIC CLEANING SERVICE.

The public cleansing service operated smoothly and satisfactorily throughout the year; no serious complaints being received.

It is estimated at the end of the year there were 4,254 refuse receptacles in the district, viz: 4,150 dustbins, 82 pail-closets, 20 privies and 2 dry ashpits.

Premises with moveable receptacles were visited weekly; those with fixed receptacles being visited at intervals of three or four weeks.

The bulk of house refuse was disposed of at the salvage and

Public Cleansing Service contd.

incineration plant, the remainder by controlled tipping.

The surveyor is responsible for the supervision of refuse disposal, the sanitary inspector for collection services and salvage sales.

Salvage. During the year the Ministry of Supply directed the Council to make collections of waste paper, metals - ferrous and non-ferrous - and household bones.

A house-to-house canvass was made in the district in connection with the salvage campaign, and in this work the Women's Voluntary Services were of great assistance. Mrs H.E. Aubin carried out the duties of honorary secretary for the canvass in a most efficient manner.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

322 calls for services were received as a result of accident or illness, and the following particulars are given of the service rendered during the year:

<u>Cases attended</u>	Accidents .....	51
	Other cases .....	271
	<u>Total .....</u>	<u>322</u>

Journeys were made to and from the undermentioned hospitals:

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Total</u>
Park Hospital, Elixton .....	7	-	7
Salford Royal Hospital .....	56	14	70
Manchester Royal Infirmary .....	40	4	44
Stretford Memorial Hospital .....	1	-	1
Green Lane Institution .....	12	-	12
Ancoats Hospital, Manchester ....	3	5	8
Manchester Northern Hospital ....	-	10	10
St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester...	10	6	16
Bootham and Paternoster Hospital ..	6	3	9
Christie's Hospital, Manchester..	1	-	1
Hope Hospital, Salford .....	50	4	54
Abbotsfield Hospital, Elixton....	43	4	47
Other hospitals .....	12	3	15
	<u>241</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>294</u>
To or from premises other than hospitals .....			28
<u>Total .....</u>			<u>322</u>

The total mileage registered was 6,940.5, giving an average of 21.54 miles per journey.

